

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A formulation comprising:

(i) at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane solvent;

(ii) at least one inorganic oxidic powder;

from 0.001 to < 0.8 mole of water per mole of Si in (i) and

(iii), optionally, an organic or inorganic acid;

wherein

the formulation is a liquid dispersion having a viscosity of less than 1500 mPa·s,

a content of the at least one inorganic oxidic powder (ii) is from 5 to 50% by weight of the liquid formulation, and

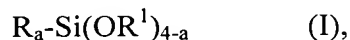
a weight ratio of the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane to the at least one inorganic oxidic powder is from 19:1 to 3:2 ~~4:1~~.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a wetting assistant (iv).

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a diluent or solvent (v).

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the organoalkoxysilane is of formula (I)

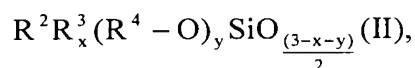


wherein

R is independently a linear, cyclic, branched or substituted alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms or an aryl group or an alkoxy group or an acryloyl- or methacryloyloxyalkyl group or an epoxyalkyl group or a glycidyloxyalkyl group or an aminoalkyl group or a fluoroalkyl group or a mercaptoalkyl group or a silylated alkylsulfanealkyl group or a thiocyanatoalkyl group or an isocyanatoalkyl group,

R¹ is a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and
a is 1 or 2.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in, claim 1
wherein the organoalkoxysiloxane is of formula (II)



wherein

R² is independently a linear, cyclic, branched or substituted alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an acryloyl- or methacryloyloxyalkyl group, a glycidyloxyalkyl group, an epoxyalkyl group, a fluoroalkyl group, an aminoalkyl group, a silylated aminoalkyl group, a ureidoalkyl group, a mercaptoalkyl group, a silylated alkylsulfane group, a thiocyanatoalkyl group, an isocyanatoalkyl group or an alkoxy group,

R³ is a linear, cyclic, branched or substituted alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms,

R⁴ is a linear, cyclic or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

x is 0 or 1 or 2, and

y is 0 or 1 or 2,

with the proviso that (x+y) < 3.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one inorganic oxidic powder (ii) comprises a nanoscale powder having an average particle size (d_{50}) of less than 1200 nm.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one inorganic oxidic powder (ii) comprises a powder selected from the group consisting of silicon oxides, aluminum oxides, and transition metal oxides.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one reaction product of the at least one inorganic oxidic powder and the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solids content is from 40 to 90% by weight, based on the total weight of the formulation.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A process for preparing a formulation, comprising:
- combining (i) at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane, (ii) at least one inorganic oxidic powder, and optionally a wetting agent component (iv),

- adding from 0.001 to < 0.8 mole of water per mole of Si in (i) to the combination of (i), (ii) and optional (iv), optionally with a catalytic amount of an organic or inorganic acid (iii), and

- intensely dispersing the mixture,

wherein

the formulation comprises:

(i) the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or the at least one organoalkoxysiloxane as a solvent;

(ii) the at least one inorganic oxidic powder;

(iii), optionally, an organic or inorganic acid,

(iv), optionally, the wetting agent,

a content of the at least one inorganic oxidic powder (ii) is from 5 to 50% by weight of the formulation,

a weight ratio of the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane to the at least one inorganic oxidic powder is from 19:1 to 3:2

and

a viscosity of the formulation is less than 1500 mPa·s.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one inorganic oxidic powder (ii) comprises at least one nanoscale inorganic powder selected from the group consisting of silicas, aluminas, transition metal oxides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one organoalkoxysilane is selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, n-propyl-trimethoxysilane, n-propyltriethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, 3-methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, 3-glycidylxypropyltrimethoxysilane, 3-glycidylxypropyltriethoxysilane, tridecafluoro-1,1,2,2-tetrahydrooctyltrimethoxysilane, tridecafluoro-1,1,2,2-tetrahydrooctyltriethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N-(n-

butyl)-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, bis(3-trimethoxysilylpropyl)amine, 3-mercapto-propyltrimethoxysilane and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane is selected from the group consisting of at least one organoalkoxysiloxane of the general formula (II), a mixture of organoalkoxysiloxanes of the general formula II, and a mixture of at least one organoalkoxysilane of the general formula I and organoalkoxysiloxanes of the general formula II.

Claim 14(Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10,
wherein from 0.05 to 0.5 mole of water is added per mole of Si in the (i) at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10,
wherein
a catalytic amount of organic or inorganic acid is added,
the added organic or inorganic acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, acrylic acid and maleic acid, and
an amount of the added acid is from 10 to 3500 ppm by weight based on the amount of (i) the at least one organoalkoxysilane and/or at least one organoalkoxysiloxane in the formulation.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 10,

wherein a temperature for dispersing the liquid formulation is from 0 to 80 °C.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10,
wherein a time for dispersing the liquid is from 10 to 60 minutes.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, further
comprising: aftertreating the intensely dispersed mixture,
wherein the aftertreatment comprises stirring for a period of from 1 to 8 hours at a
temperature of from 30 to 80 °C.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, further
comprising: adjusting the formulation to a pH of from 2 to 7 by adding the optional organic
or inorganic acid.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A formulation obtained by the process as claimed
in claim 10.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A method, comprising adding to a composition or
applying to a substrate the formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is for
preparing a composition or forming a substrate for an application selected from the group of
applications consisting of scratch resistance, abrasion resistance, corrosion protection, easy-
to-clean applications, barrier applications, electronics, surface treatment of circuit boards, an
insulating layer, a release layer, coating of the surface of solar cells, a glass fiber size, and
homogeneous incorporation of nanoscale powders into systems of other kinds.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A product prepared by a method comprising utilization of the formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is a plastic, an adhesive, a sealant, a resin base material, an ink and a paint.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A composition, comprising the formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is one selected from the group consisting of a resin based material, a plastic, an ink, a paint, an adhesive and a sealant.

Claims 24-25 (Canceled).